

# **"People & Water: Political and Geographic Boundaries"**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2012  
At the UConn Avery Point campus**

**History and many other disciplines have traditionally favored political boundaries to determine units of analysis for economic, social, or other purposes. Water, however, often complicates such efforts. Oceans have boundaries that cannot be seen or easily marked. Rivers, lakes and seas sometimes form boundaries but at other times trespass across political boundaries. The "Boundaries" theme for the 2012 People and Water ECE Conference challenges students to identify and explore a situation—anywhere on the globe and either in the past or present—in which political and natural boundaries involving water have created challenges and opportunities for groups of people.**

**We plan to meet in one large area where students can present and be judged on their research; the room will be set up with video cameras and microphones, so students and faculty who are not in attendance can watch from their high schools and even Fishers Island. We will likely adopt a structure similar to our other student conferences, where the students then gather in smaller groups who meet with an expert professor, business person, etc., for more discussion after lunch.**